

**LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL – LIFELONG LEARNING & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

YOUTH SERVICE CONTRIBUTION TO CONNEXIONS SERVICE

APPENDIX 3PART 1

1. Working together

1.1 Leicester City Youth Service is fully committed to working with the Connexions Service to ensure the development of a strategic, co-ordinated and coherent Youth Support Service. The Youth Services contribution will need to develop over time, in order to ensure that the service we offer is good quality and sustainable, and will include the following elements :-

- A Youth Work Strategy for the City Council Youth Service that covers its role in Connexions (attached)
- the production of a city Youth Service Plan consistent with the new Common Planning Framework - a requirement/commitment under Transforming Youth Work
- Information Points & First Stop Shops at agreed settings/locations within the city (see Appendix 1)
- innovative ways of involving young people in developing services for young people (see Appendix 2)
- A Widening Participation Youth Team to focus on priority disadvantaged groups in the most disadvantaged areas of the city (see section 3 below)
- a contribution to the supply of Personal Advisers (see section 2 below)
- Personal & Social Development provision for Excluded Pupils (yr. 11) in partnership with LEA's Student Support Division (see section 4 below)

2. Personal Advisers

2.1 We wish to pilot a number Full-Time Youth Workers (up to 7 x 0.2) taking a small, defined caseload of young people, with whom they already have regular contact, retaining these staff as integral to the Youth Service but at the same time as part of the Connexions network of PAs.

2.2 All our youth workers will be encouraged to undertake an appropriate level of training. All full time youth workers who will take on a personal adviser role will undertake the PA training.

2.3 Youth workers, employing good youth work practice, already carry out some aspects of the PA role in their day to day work. We want to enable our workers to continue to do so as a contribution to the Connexions Service

- 2.4 Most full time youth workers will, in time, carry a modest PA caseload. This will vary in size from worker to worker to reflect the local circumstances, pressure on the youth worker and level of need.
- 2.5 The management of youth workers who undertake the PA role as part of their youth work will continue to be managed by the Youth and Community Education Service
- 2.6 It is the expectation of the Youth Service that the co-ordination of all PAs will be the responsibility of the Connexions Service.
- 2.7 We would expect that as these arrangements develop and the work expands, the Connexions Partnership will add to the existing resources of the Youth Service.
- 2.8 We would expect all decisions to be driven by what works for young people and to reflect the strategic and statutory responsibility for the Youth Service.

3. Widening Participation and Social Inclusion Youth Team

The Youth Service intends to establish a Widening Participation and Social Inclusion Youth Team funded from NRF to work in the most disadvantaged wards of the city.

The Team's task will be to :-

- Focus on particular 'at risk and/or disadvantaged groups of young people, identified in conjunction with other services/organisations.
- Attract the young people identified into existing and/or new youth provision and initiatives that address development needs and barriers to participation and learning.
- Ensure that the young people receive other specialist help and Personal Adviser support from the Connexions Service partnership as required.

Targets:

The Widening Participation Team will significantly increase the human resources being devoted to the disadvantaged and disengaged young people in the target areas and will work closely with the existing youth work staff and other key agencies.

It will increase the number (%) of young people from disadvantaged and/or at risk groups regularly involved with youth service provision in the most disadvantaged areas of the city / Council Estates with the following target groups identified :-

- Looked After Children (youth service contribution to corporate parent role)
- Young people excluded or at risk of exclusion from school

- Young people experiencing barriers to learning (particularly African Caribbean young men)
- Young people from abroad (social cohesion)
- Young people engaged or at risk of engagement in offending / anti-social behaviour
- Pregnant teenagers
- Young people with drug misuse problems

4. Provision for excluded pupils

The Youth Service is working to establish new provision in 2/3 Youth Centres across the city from Autumn 2002 for permanently excluded pupils from year 11. The LEA Student Support Service will refer about 20/30 young people for up to 12.5 hours per week for the year. It has been agreed in discussions that the young people are likely to be defined as needing a Personal Adviser and that discussions are needed with Connexions prior to starting the provision.

5. Please note the following:-

- It is our aspiration to have Information Points in all our Youth Centres, however not all staff have yet been approached about the use of the premises
- There is more than one first stop shop listed in some areas. The Connexions Service will need to indicate whether it wishes to develop them all. Our guarantee is to achieve at least 7 in the first year. Internet connection is an issue that we would like to discuss with Connexions.
- The centres will be staffed during their opening hours – but these hours vary
- There may be an issue about resource implications if there is an increase in the number of requests for information and advice over and above what youth workers currently offer.
- We will work together to develop compatible databases and MIS systems